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BABYLON

IN VALEN'S NAME

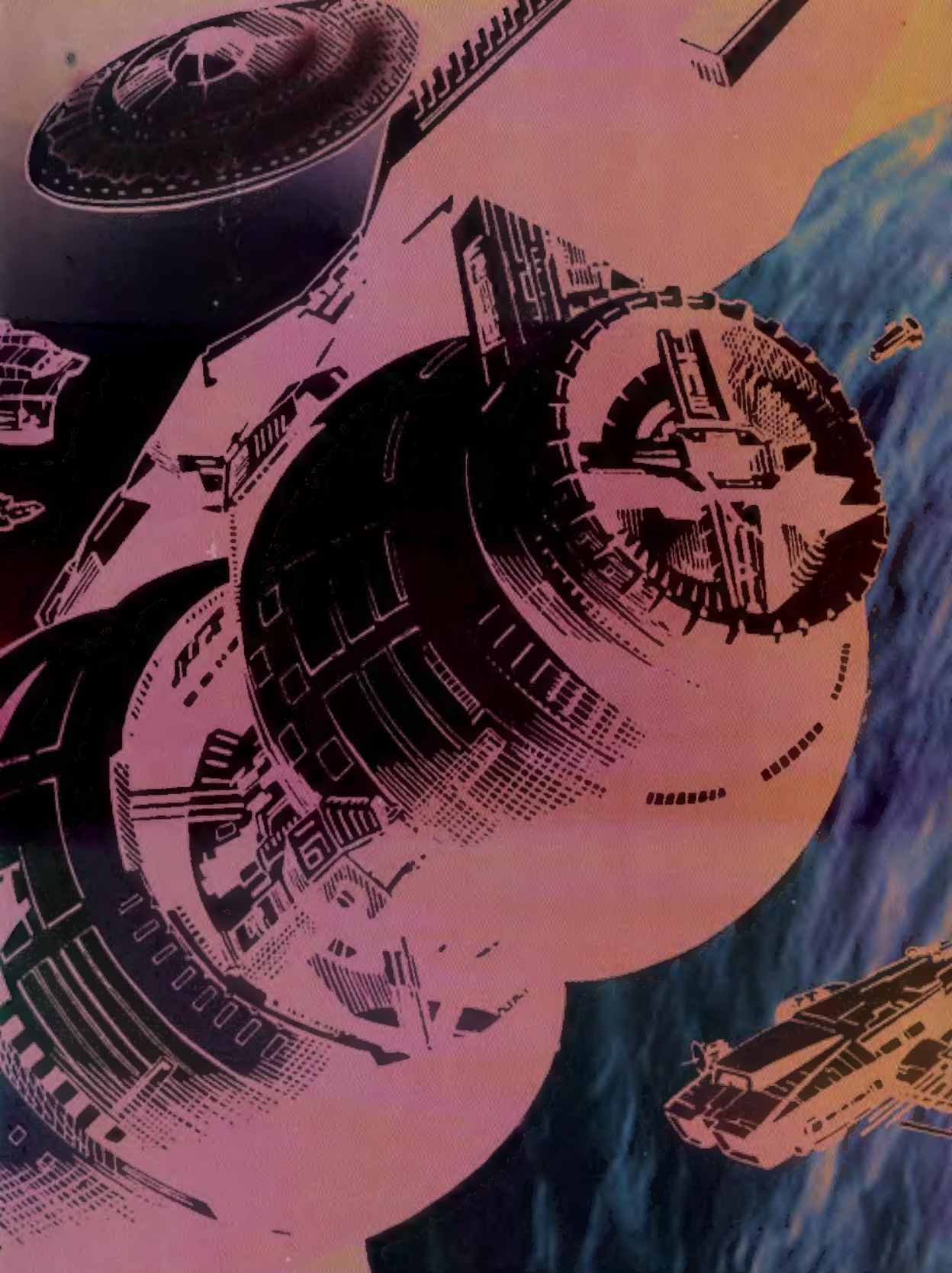
PART ONE OF THREE


**BY J. MICHAEL
STRACZYNSKI,
MICHAEL COLLINS
& DAVID ROACH**



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BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



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IN VALEN'S NAME


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BABCOM IVANOVA


I SHOULD'VE KNOWN
BETTER. IT'S ALWAYS
THE QUIET DAYS THAT
GET YOU. THEY LULL
YOU INTO A FALSE
SENSE OF SECURITY.
THEN SNEAK UP BEHIND
YOU AND WHAM!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
SOMEDAY I'LL
LEARN TO KEEP MY
BIG MOUTH SHUT
AND REFRAIN FROM
TEMPTING THE
UNIVERSE.

BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON 5** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI




--AND WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THIS SHADOW DEATH CLOUD, TEN THOUSAND VORLON SHIPS, ANOTHER TEN THOUSAND SHADOW VESSELS, PLUS ABOUT EIGHT THOUSAND OF OUR OWN. IT'S THE BIGGEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.




AND WITH ALL THAT, IT WASN'T WEAPONS THAT ENDED THE WAR, IT WASN'T SHEER NUMBERS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WE UNDERSTOOD OUR WAY OUT OF IT.

IT'S A DAMNED FUNNY UNIVERSE SOME DAYS.


IS THAT THE WILDEST THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?



WILDEST? YEAH. STRANGEST? I THINK THAT WAS THE TIME WE PICKED UP A SIGNAL FROM BABYLON 4.

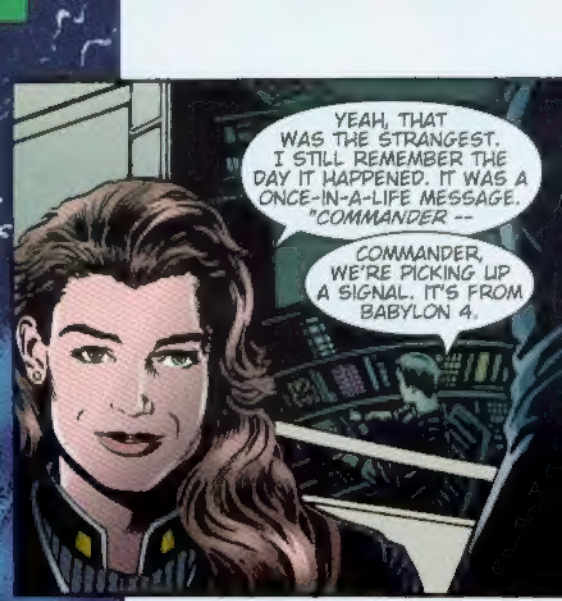


"THE STATION HAD DISAPPEARED SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER. AFTER WE EVACUATED HER CREW, IT DISAPPEARED AGAIN.



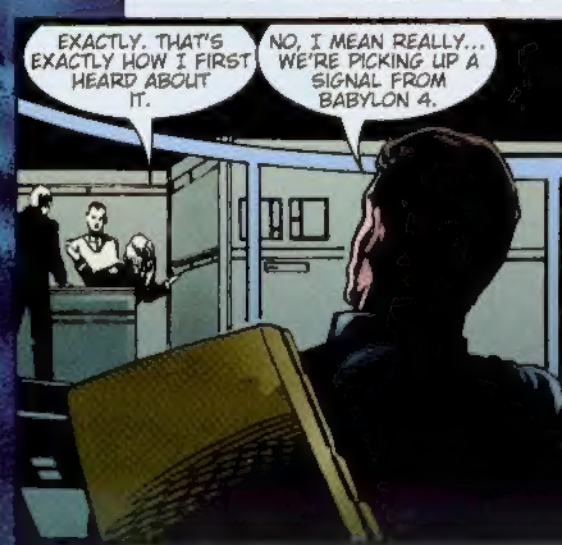
"WE THOUGHT IT WAS BEING PULLED INTO THE FUTURE. BUT IT WAS BEING TAKEN A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE PAST TO FIGHT IN THE LAST GREAT WAR AGAINST THE SHADOWS."

"COMMANDER -- EXCUSE ME, **AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR** WENT WITH IT. THAT WAS THE LAST TIME WE SAW EITHER HIM OR THE STATION."



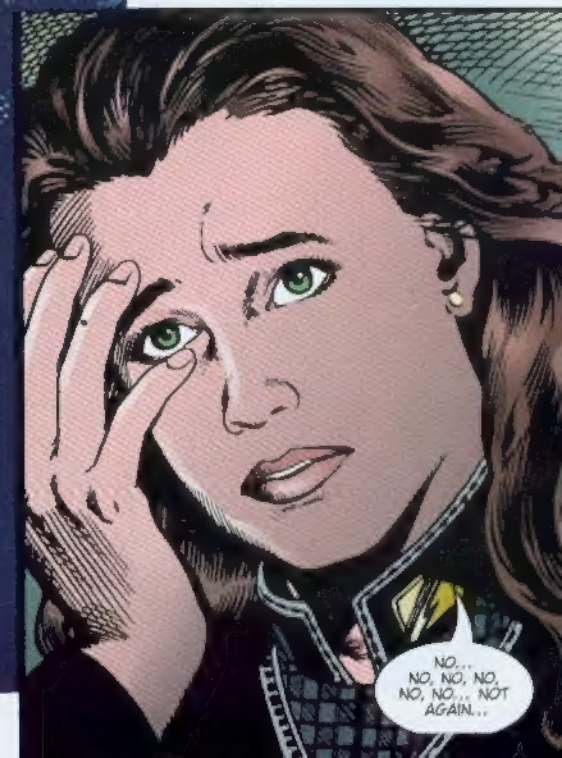
YEAH, THAT WAS THE STRANGEST. I STILL REMEMBER THE DAY IT HAPPENED. IT WAS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFE MESSAGE.
"COMMANDER --

COMMANDER, WE'RE PICKING UP A SIGNAL. IT'S FROM BABYLON 4.



EXACTLY. THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I FIRST HEARD ABOUT IT.

NO, I MEAN REALLY... WE'RE PICKING UP A SIGNAL FROM BABYLON 4.



NO... NO, NO, NO, NO, NO... NOT AGAIN...



ARE YOU *SURE* IT'S
BABYLON 4?

POSITIVE.
WE RAN THE
I.D. THREE
TIMES.

LOOKS
LIKE AN
AUTOMATED
DISTRESS
SIGNAL.



DO YOU KNOW
WHERE IT'S
COMING
FROM?

SECTOR
730 BY 12
BY 9.

WHAT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IS,
HOW DID IT GET
THERE?

THAT'S
RIGHT... YOU
WOULDN'T
KNOW.



EARTHDOME SPENT MOST OF ITS
MONEY ON BABYLON 4, LEAVING US
TO SCRAPE UP WHATEVER WAS LEFT
FOR B5. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT
MADE B4 DIFFERENT... WAS THAT IT
COULD MOVE. IT WAS EQUIPPED
WITH THE BIGGEST ION ENGINES
EVER MADE.

THEY
DIDN'T WANT IT TO
BE A SITTING DUCK,
LIKE THE PREVIOUS
THREE THAT WERE
DESTROYED DURING
CONSTRUCTION.



THE STATION WAS ABANDONED ALMOST A
THOUSAND YEARS AGO, AFTER THE LAST
SHADOW WAR. WE KNEW IT WAS TAKEN
TO A PLACE OF REST, WHERE IT WAS TO
BECOME A MONUMENT... BUT IT WAS ALL
DONE IN SECRET. NO ONE KNEW WHERE
THEY WERE TAKING IT, AND THE CREW NEVER
CAME BACK. ITS FATE HAS BEEN A
MYSTERY FOR MORE THAN NINE
CENTURIES.

UNTIL
NOW.



JOHN, WE MUST INVESTIGATE
THIS. IF IT IS TRULY BABYLON
4... IT COULD CONTAIN PRICE-
LESS INFORMATION, RECORDS
ABOUT THE LAST WAR. IT'S A
CRUCIAL PART OF MINBARI
HISTORY.

I DISAGREE.
I SAY WE SEND
OUT A PROBE OR
A TECH CREW
FIRST, CHECK IT
OUT, THEN GO
IN IF IT LOOKS
SAFE.



WHY THE CONCERN?

EVERY TIME THAT THING APPEARS, IT MEANS TROUBLE. IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF FLYING DUTCHMAN. TWICE BEFORE WE ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT... THREE IS PUSHING IT.

IT'S A VALID POINT.

BUT WE'RE GOING ANYWAY.

"BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HISTORY. BECAUSE WE HAVE TO HONOR DELENN'S DESIRE TO RECLAIM A MONUMENT TO THE LAST WAR.

"BUT MAINLY... BECAUSE I WANT TO KNOW THE END OF THE STORY."

SOMEHOW, I JUST KNEW HE WOULD SAY THAT.



WE ARRIVED AT OUR
DESTINATION 40 HOURS,
14 MINUTES AND 18
SECONDS LATER.

"APPROACHING
TARGET AREA."

WE'RE
NOT READING
ANY INHABITED
PLANETS IN THE
AREA.

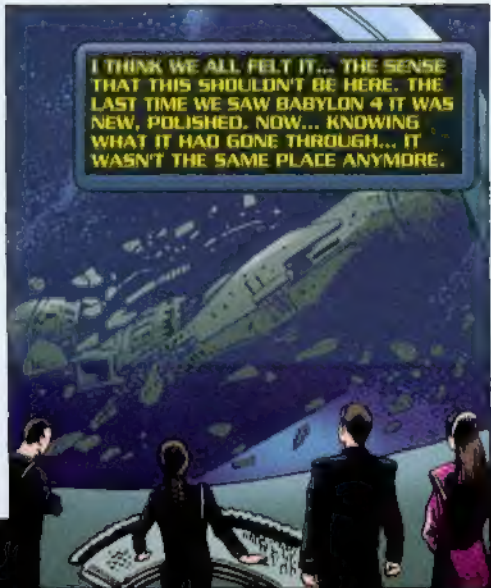
TRANSMISSIONS?

NONE.

THEN
LET'S TAKE HER
IN. MAKE THE
JUMP TO NORMAL
SPACE.

AS SOON AS I SAW
IT, I GOT THIS
FEELING IN THE PIT
OF MY STOMACH.

I THINK WE ALL FELT IT... THE SENSE THAT THIS SHOULDN'T BE HERE. THE LAST TIME WE SAW BABYLON 4 WAS NEW, POLISHED. NOW... KNOWING WHAT IT HAD GONE THROUGH... IT WASN'T THE SAME PLACE ANYMORE.



STATUS?

I'M PICKING UP A WEAK POWER SOURCE, AND THE DISTRESS SIGNAL. NOTHING ELSE. THE DOCKING BAY IS DOWN, SO WE'LL HAVE TO GO IN BY EVA.

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT...



DELENN, TELL THE CREW TO STAND BY WHILE WE GO ABOARD. AND IF THEY PICK UP ANY TRANSMISSIONS, LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.

OF COURSE.

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭ




NO ONE SPOKE AS WE CHANGED. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE'D FIND INSIDE. BODIES, POSSIBLY. IT WAS LIKE PREPARING TO ENTER AN EGYPTIAN PYRAMID FOR THE FIRST TIME.



DELENN SEEMED ESPECIALLY NERVOUS. WE KNEW WHAT BABYLON 4 MEANT TO HER. IT WAS THE HOME BASE FOR THE GREATEST OF THEM. VALEN.





VALEN. THAT WAS THE NAME THEY GAVE
COMMANDER SINCLAIR WHEN HE AND
ZATHRAS TOOK BABYLON 4 INTO THE
PAST... WHEN SINCLAIR CAME OUT OF
THE CHRYSALIS HALF-HUMAN AND HALF-
MINBARI. "A MINBARI NOT BORN OF
MINBARI."

HE HELPED THEM WIN THE
LAST SHADOW WAR, AND
CREATED THE GREY COUNCIL.

NONE OF US EVER
IMAGINED WE'D SEE THIS
PLACE AGAIN.

PROVING AGAIN THAT
THE UNIVERSE IS NOT
JUST STRANGER THAN
WE IMAGINE, IT'S
STRANGER THAN WE
CAN EVER IMAGINE.

STAY
CLOSE... THERE'S
DEBRIS ALL OVER
THE PLACE.

WHICH LED TO THE QUESTION NONE OF US HAD ASKED... BUT WHICH WAS IN THE BACK OF ALL OF OUR MINDS.

IF BABYLON 4 WAS EMPTY AND DESERTED, A GHOST STATION, THEN... WHO OR WHAT... HAD TRIGGERED THAT DISTRESS SIGNAL?

THIS WAY... IF I REMEMBER THE DIAGRAMS CORRECTLY, THIS SHOULD GET US AROUND THE WORST OF IT AND INTO THE CENTER OF THE STATION.

I HATE THIS. I HATE THIS. I HATE THIS.

YOU SAID SOMETHING --
-- UGH! HARDER --

-- MR. GARIBALDI?

NOPE. NOTHING.

I REALLY REALLY REALLY HATE THIS

SHOULDN'T BE MUCH FURTHER.

I BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT SOME TIME AGO, CAPTAIN

YEAH, WELL, NO ONE'S --
-- WOW...

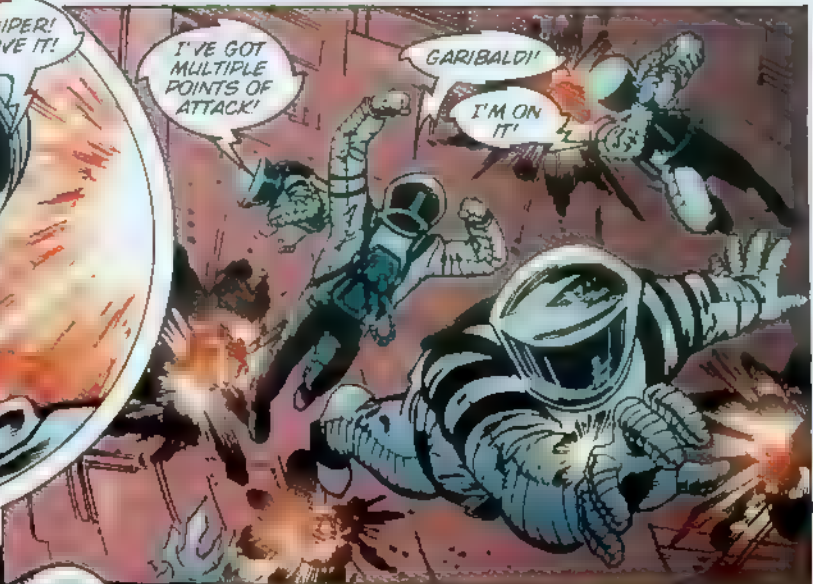




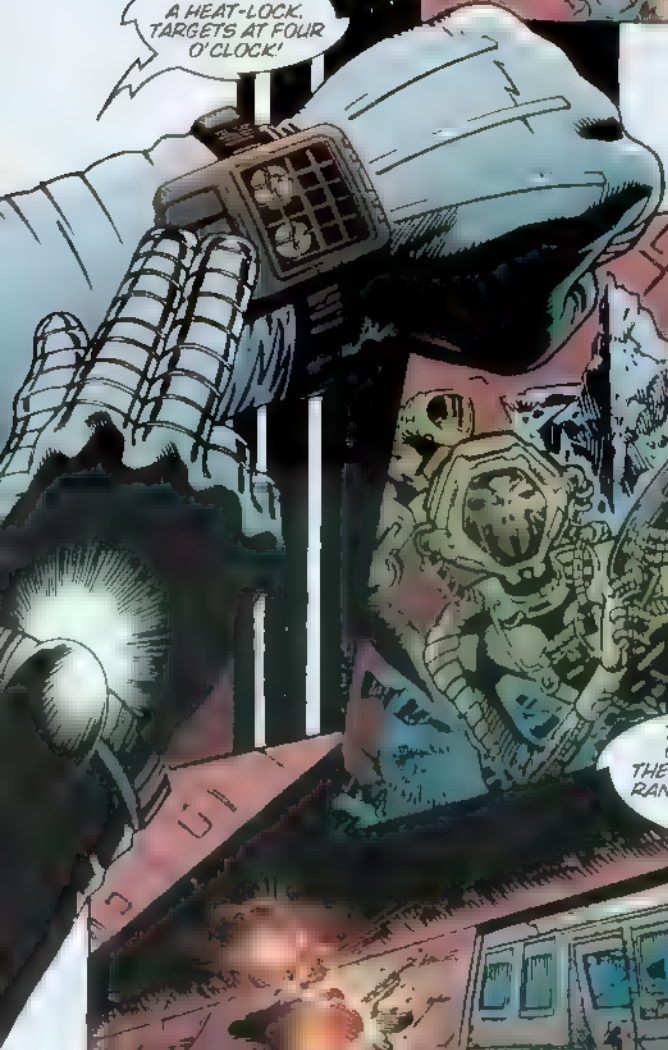
SNIPER!
MOVE IT!

I'VE GOT
MULTIPLE
POINTS OF
ATTACK!

GARIBALDI!
I'M ON
IT!



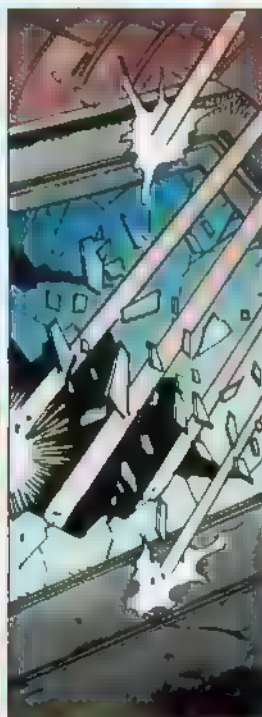
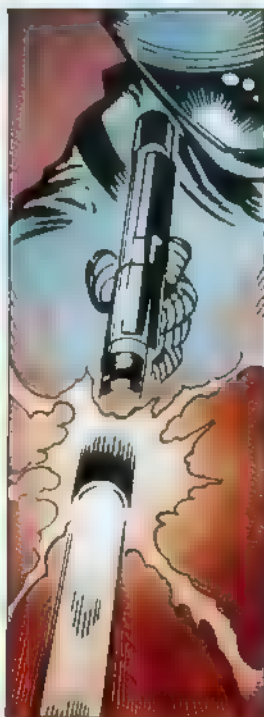
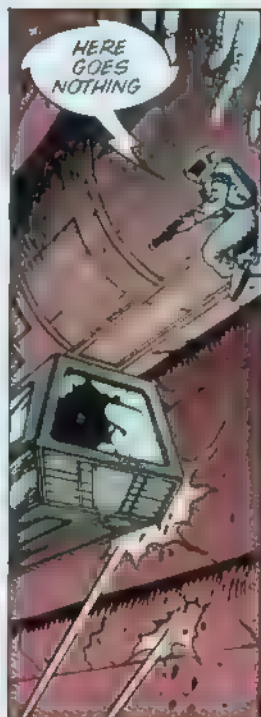
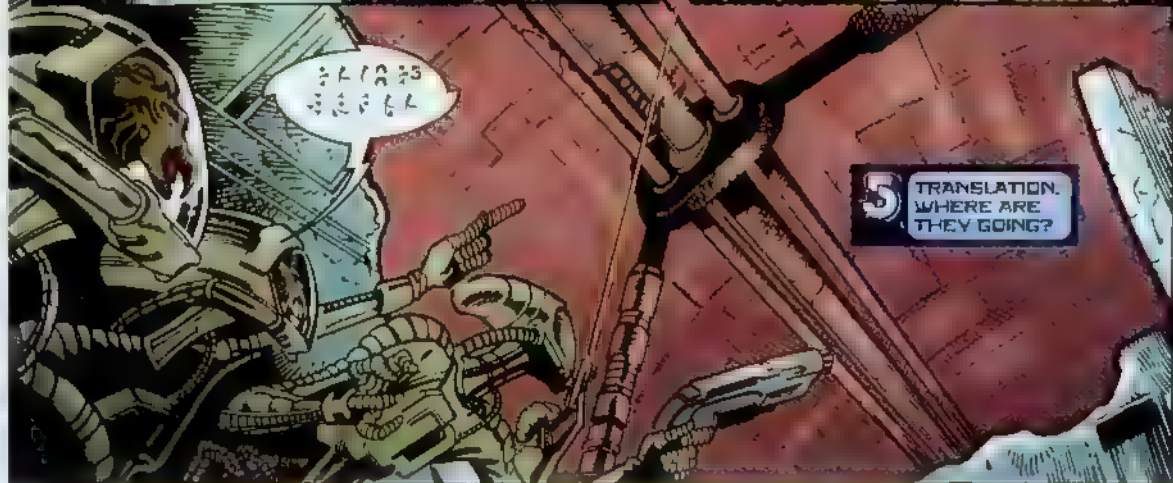
I'VE GOT
A HEAT-LOCK.
TARGETS AT FOUR
O'CLOCK!



THEY'RE
OUTSIDE
THE EFFECTIVE
RANGE OF OUR
PPGS

BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE INSIDE
THEIRS.

EXACTLY.
ALL THEY HAVE
TO DO IS WAIT US
OUT, OR MOVE INTO
A BETTER FIRING
POSITION





5


TRANSLATION
NOT AVAILABLE.

I
THINK I GOT
THEM.

YEAH,
THEM AND THEIR
ANCESTORS BACK FIVE
GENERATIONS... JEEZ,
MICHAEL --


WELL, IT
GOT THE JOB
DONE; IT'S NOT LIKE
ANYBODY WAS
USING IT --

--SIGH--




I SUGGEST
WE GET TO CSC, OR
WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.
BECAUSE WE'VE GOT
A PROBLEM

I
THOUGHT
WE JUST TOOK
CARE OF THE
PROBLEM.

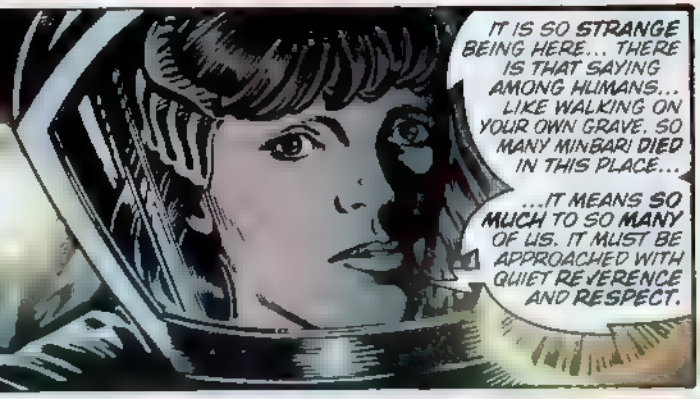


I DIDN'T
SEE A SHIP OUTSIDE,
AND THOSE ALIENS DIDN'T
LOOK A THOUSAND YEARS
OLD TO ME. THAT MEANS
SOMEBODY DROPPED THEM
OFF. AND THAT MEANS
SOMEBODY'LL PROBABLY
BE COMING BACK TO
PICK THEM UP.

OH.




YOU'RE BEING
AWFULLY
QUIET.



IT IS SO STRANGE
BEING HERE... THERE
IS THAT SAYING
AMONG HUMANS...
LIKE WALKING ON
YOUR OWN GRAVE. SO
MANY MINBARI DIED
IN THIS PLACE...

...IT MEANS SO
MUCH TO SO MANY
OF US. IT MUST BE
APPROACHED WITH
QUIET REVERENCE
AND RESPECT.

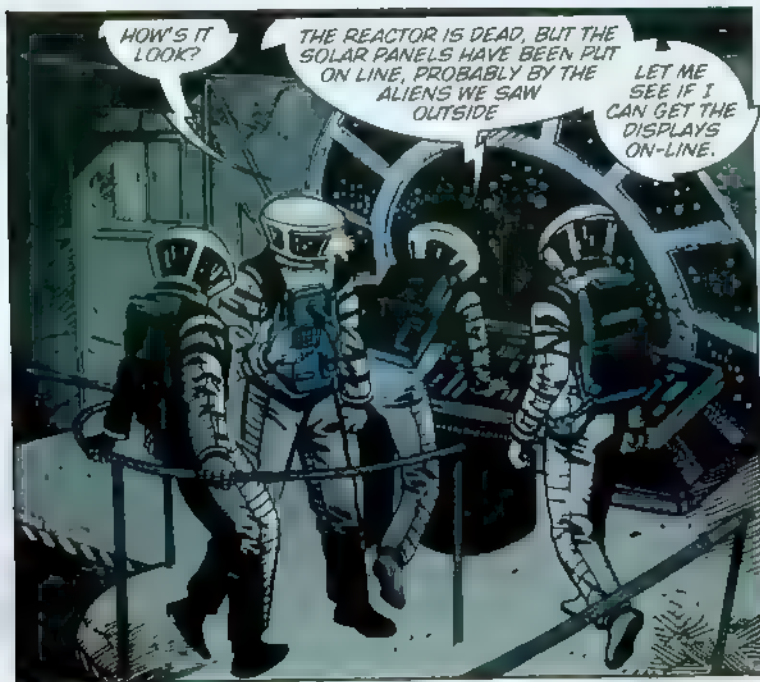


SO...
YOU THINK THE
BATHROOMS ON
THIS PLACE STILL
WORK..?

66
66/67

5

TRANSLATION
NOT AVAILABLE



HOW'S IT LOOK?

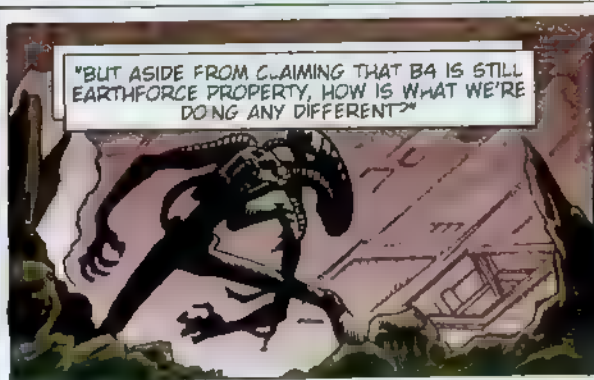
THE REACTOR IS DEAD, BUT THE SOLAR PANELS HAVE BEEN PUT ON LINE, PROBABLY BY THE ALIENS WE SAW OUTSIDE

LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET THE DISPLAYS ON-LINE.



I WOULD'VE LIKED TO QUESTION THOSE INTRUDERS, BUT IT WAS THEM OR US. MY GUESS IS THEY WERE SCAVENGERS RAIDING THE PLACE

SACRILEGE.

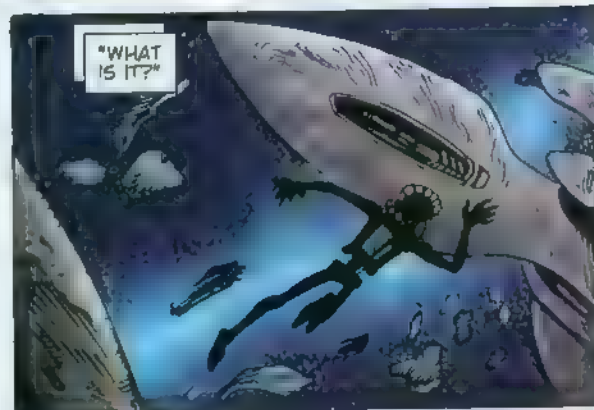


"BUT ASIDE FROM CLAIMING THAT BA IS STILL EARTHFORCE PROPERTY, HOW IS WHAT WE'RE DOING ANY DIFFERENT?"



WHEN WE LEAVE HERE, WE WILL TAKE WITH US ONLY THE EXPERIENCE, AND THE INFORMATION. NOTHING MORE. NO ONE OWNS THIS PLACE ANY LONGER; IT BELONGS TO HISTORY

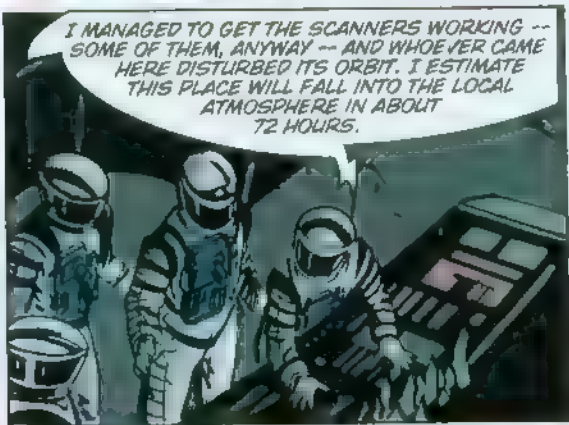
NOT FOR LONG, I'M AFRAID.



"WHAT IS IT?"

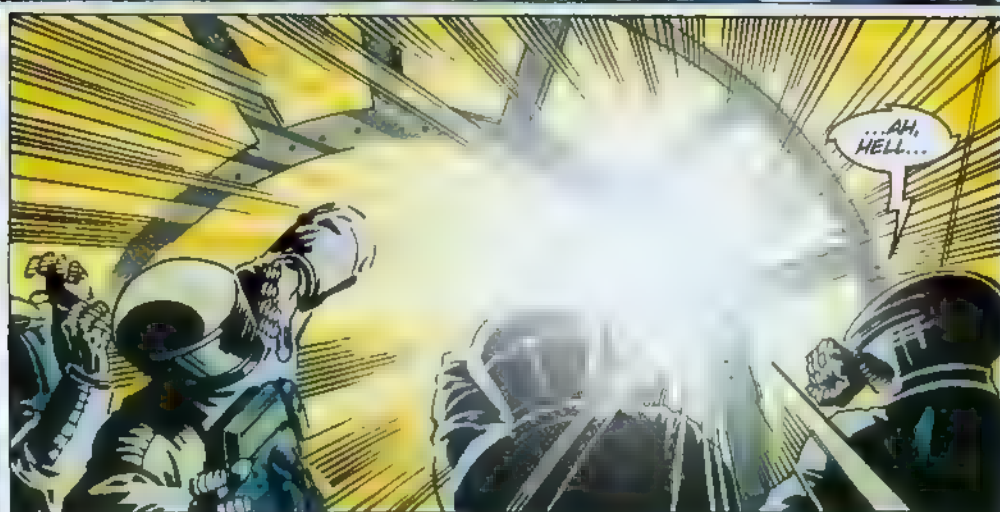


"DAMN.. AND THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN MOVE THIS THING BACK INTO ORBIT WITHOUT TEARING IT APART.



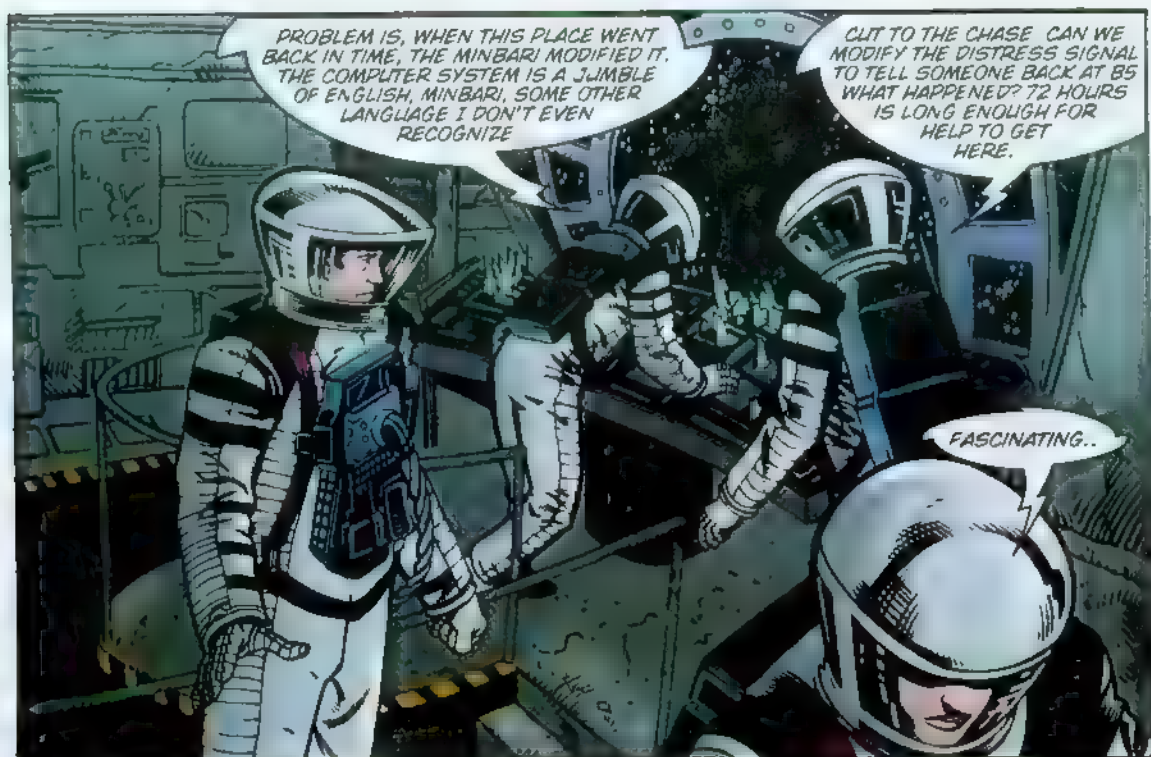
I MANAGED TO GET THE SCANNERS WORKING -- SOME OF THEM, ANYWAY -- AND WHOEVER CAME HERE DISTURBED ITS ORBIT. I ESTIMATE THIS PLACE WILL FALL INTO THE LOCAL ATMOSPHERE IN ABOUT 72 HOURS.

"WELL, AT LEAST WE'VE GOT SOME TIME TELL WHITE STAR TWO TO --"



IVANDYA'S RULE #34:
ALWAYS MAKE SURE
THAT WHATEVER LOOKS
DEAD, STAYS DEAD, AND
WILL NOT HAVE ANY
IDEAS ABOUT NOT BEING
DEAD AT ANY TIME IN
THE FORESEEABLE
FUTURE. IGNORE THE
RULES, AND THEY HURT
YOU.

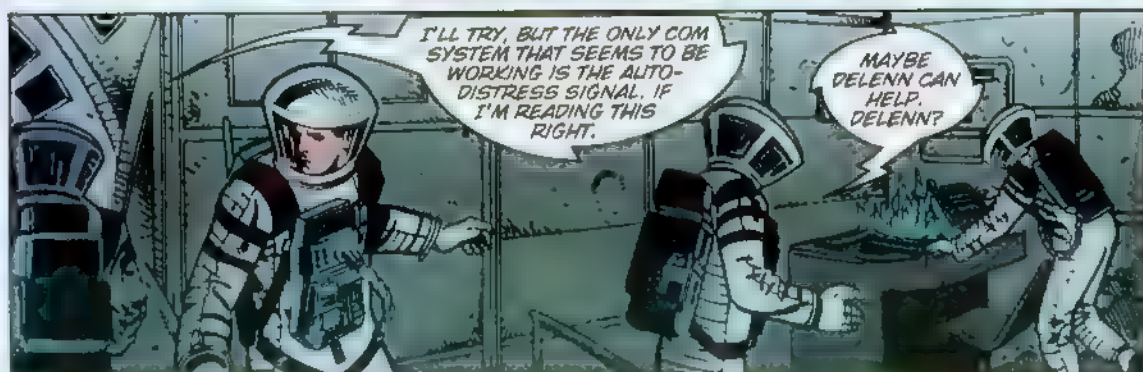
THIS ONE
HURT US
BIG TIME.



PROBLEM IS, WHEN THIS PLACE WENT BACK IN TIME, THE MINBARI MODIFIED IT. THE COMPUTER SYSTEM IS A JUMBLE OF ENGLISH, MINBARI, SOME OTHER LANGUAGE I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE

CUT TO THE CHASE CAN WE MODIFY THE DISTRESS SIGNAL TO TELL SOMEONE BACK AT B5 WHAT HAPPENED? 72 HOURS IS LONG ENOUGH FOR HELP TO GET HERE.

FASCINATING..



I'LL TRY, BUT THE ONLY COM SYSTEM THAT SEEMS TO BE WORKING IS THE AUTO-DISTRESS SIGNAL. IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT.

MAYBE DELENN CAN HELP. DELENN?



IN A MOMENT.

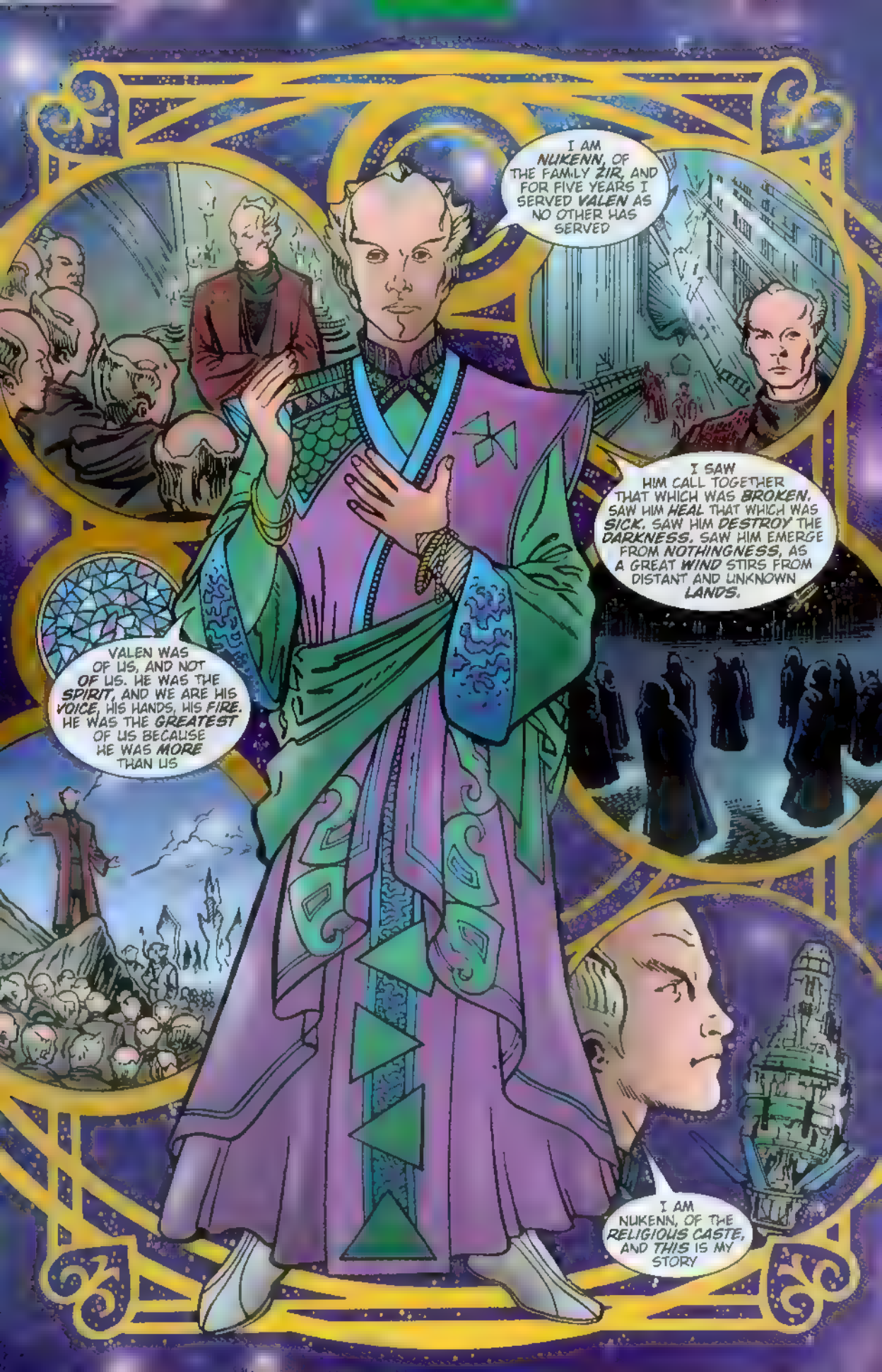
"HERE BEGNS THE TESTAMENT OF VALEN, AND OF THE WAR, AND THE PERIOD FOLLOWING."



I THINK SHE FOUND SOMETHING

YOU THINK?

GOOD CHANCE



I AM
NUKENN, OF
THE FAMILY ZIR, AND
FOR FIVE YEARS I
SERVED VALEN AS
NO OTHER HAS
SERVED

I SAW
HIM CALL TOGETHER
THAT WHICH WAS **BROKEN**.
SAW HIM HEAL THAT WHICH WAS
SICK. SAW HIM DESTROY THE
DARKNESS. SAW HIM EMERGE
FROM **NOTHINGNESS**, AS
A GREAT WIND STIRS FROM
DISTANT AND UNKNOWN
LANDS.

VALEN WAS
OF US, AND NOT
OF US. HE WAS THE
SPIRIT, AND WE ARE HIS
VOICE, HIS HANDS, HIS FIRE.
HE WAS THE **GREATEST**
OF US BECAUSE
HE WAS **MORE**
THAN US

I AM
NUKENN, OF THE
RELIGIOUS CASTE,
AND THIS IS MY
STORY

I AM
RASHOK, OF THE
FAMILY DOSH, AND FOR
THREE YEARS I SERVED
UNDER VALEN AS NO
OTHER WAS
SERVED.

I SAW HIM
TEAR DOWN WALLS
THAT HAD NEVER
BEFORE FALLEN
TO OTHERS...

...SAW
HIM RALLY
OUR FORCES IN
TIMES OF GREAT
DANGER AND
DESPAIR...

...SAW HIM
WIN VICTORIES
AGAINST SUPERIOR
FORCES THROUGH
STRATEGY AND CLEAR-
HEADEDNESS

...SAW HIM
STERN, GRAVE,
WEEPING, AND THROUGH
IT ALL, A TRUE WARRIOR
NEVER SURRENDERING
UNTIL THE WAR
WAS OVER. VALEN WAS

EVERY HAND THAT
STRUCK FOR FREEDOM'S
PURPOSE. HE WAS THE EYE THAT
SAW FOR US, THE STRENGTH THAT
FOUGHT FOR US, THE WISDOM
THAT CONQUERED THE
UNCONQUERABLE.

I AM
RASHOK, OF THE
WARRIOR CASTE,
AND THIS IS MY
STORY.

"OUR LAST, GREAT STARBASE
HAD BEEN **DESTROYED**. OUR
SHIPS, WOUNDED AND FAR FROM
HOME, WANDERED, FLED FINDING
NO FRIENDLY PORT. THE
SHADOWS HAD **TURNED** ALL
THE OTHERS **AGAINST** US

"EVERY FACE WAS
TURNED FROM US. WE
NEEDED TO REPAIR OUR
FLEET, NEEDED PEACE TO
REST, AND A PLACE FROM
WHICH TO PLAN OUR NEXT
MOVE. TO RETURN HOME
WOULD MEAN RETREAT.
WE COULD NOT DO THIS...
COULD NOT ALLOW THE
DARKNESS TO FOLLOW
US BACK.

"THEN A **NEW STAR**
APPEARED BEFORE US,
FLARING IN AN INSTANT,
AND THEN GONE. A SIGNAL
FROM THE **UNIVERSE** THAT
IT HAD NOT FORGOTTEN
THE **LEAST** OF HER
CHILDREN, LOST AND
FRIGHTENED AND FAR
FROM HOME.

"WE HAD LOST
OUR **BASE**. WE
HAD LOST OUR
LEADERS. WE HAD
LOST **HOPE**.

"IN THAT MOMENT,
THE **UNIVERSE**
RETURNED TO US
ALL **THREE**."

"HE GAVE US A WEAPON,
A VESSEL INTO WHICH
WE COULD POUR OUR
RESOURCES, AND FROM
WHICH WE COULD LAUNCH
OUR COUNTEROFFENSIVES.

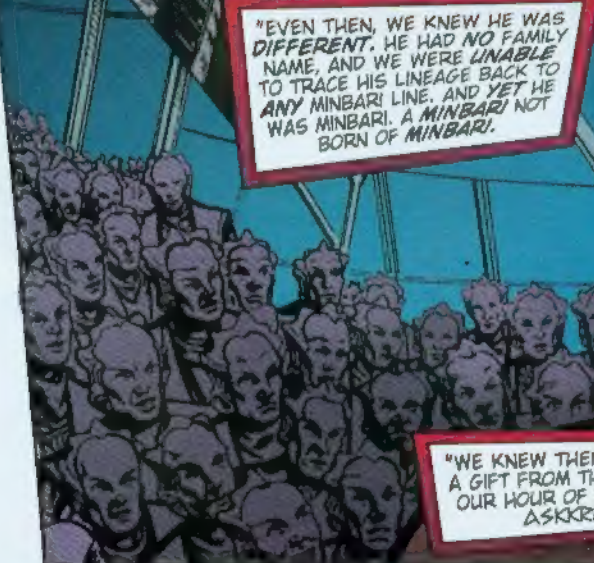


"IT WAS UNTOUCHED AND
PRISTINE, AND WE WERE
ABLE TO MODIFY IT TO OUR
NEEDS. VALEN NEVER TOLD
US WHERE IT HAD COME
FROM. AND, AFTER THE
FIRST FEW TIMES, WE
STOPPED ASKING. IT WAS
ENOUGH THAT IT WAS.

"NEITHER DID WE KNOW WHERE HE CAME
FROM, OR HIS CURIOUS COMPANION.
BUT AS TIRED AS WE WERE, WE DID
NOT CARE. HE HAD GIVEN US REFUGE
FROM THE COLD NIGHT OF SPACE, AND
FOR THAT ALONE WE WERE THANKFUL.

"EVEN THEN, WE KNEW HE WAS
DIFFERENT. WE HAD NO FAMILY
NAME, AND WE WERE UNABLE
TO TRACE HIS LINEAGE BACK TO
ANY MINBARI LINE. AND YET HE
WAS MINBARI. A MINBARI NOT
BORN OF MINBARI.

"WE KNEW THEN THAT HE WAS
A GIFT FROM THE UNIVERSE IN
OUR HOUR OF NEED. HE WAS
ASKRRRTT --



RECORD DAMAGED.
SKIPPING TO NEXT
AVAILABLE RECORD.

"-- CALLED TOGETHER THE THREE
CASTES: **WARRIOR, RELIGIOUS, AND
WORKER**. WITH THE FALL OF OUR
BASE, THE CASTES HAD QUARRELED
AMONG EACH OTHER OVER THE
DIRECTION WE MUST FOLLOW. THERE
HAD BEEN FIGHTING WITHIN THE
CASTES. ARGUMENTS HAD TURNED
TO **VIOLENCE**.


"WHEN THE CASTES WOULD **NOT
BEND**, HE TURNED HIS BACK ON
US, **SHAMED** US, AND CREATED
THE ANLA-SHOK & A NEW ARMY
OF MINBARI THAT RECOGNIZED
NO CASTE LINES, THAT **SHUNNED**
CASTES. IF THE CASTES WOULD
NOT COOPERATE, THEN HE WOULD
FIND A WAY TO WORK **OUTSIDE**
THE CASTES.

5 RANGERS (TRANSLATED
FROM THE MINBARI,
MEANING "THE
APPLICATION OF FORCE").


"THAT WAS HIS
LESSON: TO GO **BEYOND**
THE LIMITATIONS OF FLESH,
OF **RULES**, OF **LAW**, TO
THE **CENTER** OF THE
SOUL. WE COULD ONLY
ENVY HIS FREEDOM.
TO FIGHT A WAR, YOU
FIGHT A WAR, YOU DO
NOT ARGUE DOCTRINE
OF THE SUPREMACY
OF CASTES.

"WE
CALLED HIM
ENTIL'ZHA."


WILL
YOU FOLLOW
ME INTO FIRE, INTO
DARKNESS, INTO
DEATH?




"THE COMPANION OF VALEN, WHO CAME TO US WHEN HE CAME... WE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT FRIENDSHIP. HE COULD NOT FIGHT, NEVER FOUGHT, AND YET HE SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT WAS NEEDED BEFORE IT WAS NEEDED, AND AIDED US IN ADJUSTING OUR SHIPS TO BE HELD IN THE LAUNCH BAYS OF THE NEW BASE.




NO, NO...
WRONG, THIS IS VERY WRONG. ZATHRAS FIX. THIS NOT BELONG. MINBARI ALWAYS CLUTTER. ZATHRAS DOES NOT UNDERSTAND CLUTTER.




"I THOUGHT HE WOULD DRIVE US MAD, AND YET VALEN CALLED HIM A FRIEND.



"WE UNDERSTOOD A LITTLE BETTER WHEN THE SHADOWS CAME, AND ZATHRAS WAS THE ONE WHO ASKRRKKKT --




CAPTAIN...
DELENN... WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.



GOT A PROBLEM? WE'VE HAD A PROBLEM FOR A WHILE NOW.


YEAH, WELL IN THAT CASE IT JUST GOT WORSE.



OUR ORBIT IS DETERIORATING FASTER THAN I'D ANTICIPATED. I THINK THE SHAPE OF THE STATION IS CATCHING THE ATMOSPHERE, CAUSING IT TO GO IN A STEEPER ANGLE.

SO HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE LEFT ON THE 72 HOURS?

AT A GUESS... 24.

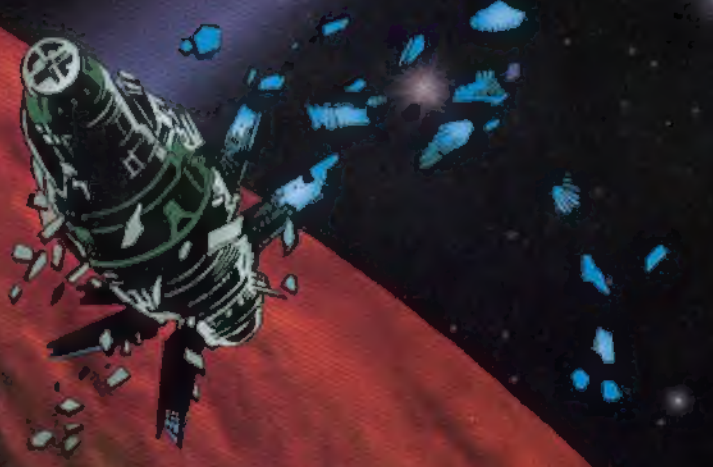


SUSAN... ASSUMING OUR DISTRESS SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED BY BABYLON 5, IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST 36 STANDARD HOURS FOR ANOTHER SHIP TO REACH US.

I KNOW.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM ANY TIME I EVER ALLOW MYSELF TO THINK, "WELL, IT COULD BE WORSE," NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, IT GETS WORSE. FAST.

COMMANDER SINCLAIR ONCE CALLED THIS PLACE A FLYING DUTCHMAN... A SHIP DESTINED NEVER TO REACH HOME. NOW WE HAD TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET OUT. OR THIS TIME IT WAS GOING TO TAKE US WITH IT WHEN IT WENT DOWN IN THE FLAMES.



AND YOU KNOW, THERE'S NEVER A GOOD REVELATION AROUND WHEN YOU NEED ONE.